

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended): A method for cleaning teeth by means of an electric dental cleaning device $[(1, 2)]$ having coupled to its handle section $[(1)]$ various cleaning tools $[(2)]$ for the individual tooth cleaning of the users of the dental cleaning device, characterized by the steps of detecting or recognizing a coding provided on the respective cleaning tool $[(2)]$ used by means of the handle section $[(1)]$ and controlling, in dependence upon the respective coding detected or recognized, dental cleaning parameters by means of the handle section $[(1)]$ and/or detecting, receiving or storing user-specific dental cleaning data.
2. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~the preceding claim~~ claim 1, comprising the step of adapting operating parameters of the dental cleaning device $[(1, 2)]$, in particular cleaning frequency, cleaning speed, cleaning time and/or application pressure or threshold value or desired range of application pressure in dependence upon the detected coding.
3. (Currently amended): The method as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, comprising the steps of detecting, storing, processing and/or indicating cleaning frequency, cleaning speed, cleaning time and/or application pressure as user-specific tooth cleaning data.
4. (Currently amended): A handle section $[(1)]$ of an electric dental cleaning device $[(1, 2)]$, with a coupling section for the coupling of cleaning tools $[(2)]$, in particular brush attachments, and with a drive mechanism $[(23)]$ for driving the respective coupled

cleaning tool, characterized in that provision is made for a coding detection device ~~[[5]]~~ for detecting a preferably individual coding of the respective cleaning tool ~~[[2]]~~ attached to the handle section and a control device ~~[[27]]~~ for the control of at least one function of the dental cleaning device in dependence upon the detected coding.

5. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in claim 4 wherein the control device ~~[[27]]~~ includes control elements for the control of operating parameters of the dental cleaning device, in particular cleaning frequency, cleaning speed, cleaning time and/or application pressure or threshold value or desired range of application pressure in dependence upon the detected coding.
6. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 5~~ claim 4, wherein provision is made for a data device for the detection, storage, processing and/or indication of dental cleaning data, and the control device possesses control elements for controlling the data device in dependence upon the detected coding.
7. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein the coding detection device (5) is of the noncontacting type.
8. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the claims 4 to 6~~ claim 4, wherein the coding detection device (5) is actuatable mechanically.
9. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 8~~ claim 4, wherein the coding detection device ~~[[5]]~~ includes at least one movable and/or elastically deformable contact ~~[[17]]~~ or similar sensing element that is adapted to be moved and/or deformed by a coding of a cleaning tool ~~[[2]]~~ and produces a signal corresponding to its movement and/or deformation.
10. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in claim 9 wherein the contact ~~[[17]]~~ or sensing element is constructed as an electrical contact member.

11. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 10~~claim 4, wherein a probe element is movably, preferably displaceably, mounted and has an engagement surface $[(56)]$ for engagement with a corresponding actuating surface $[(55)]$ of a cleaning tool $[(2)]$.
12. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in claim 11, characterized in that the engagement surface mates with the actuating surface of the cleaning tool $[(2)]$ such that on coupling engagement of the cleaning tool $[(2)]$ with the handle section the probe element is moved by an amount predetermined by the actuating surface.
13. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in claim 11 ~~or 12~~, characterized in that the coding detection device $[(5)]$ includes a motion sensor $[(17; 57)]$ for detecting the movement of the probe element.
14. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 11 to 13~~claim 11, wherein the probe element is formed by a drive shaft (28) mounted preferably in longitudinally displaceable fashion.
15. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 13 or 14~~claim 13, wherein the motion sensor is a sensing element ~~(57) according to claim 9 or 10~~.
16. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 15~~claim 4, wherein the coding detection device $[(5)]$ includes a signal receiver $[(20)]$ for receiving a coded signal from the cleaning tool $[(2)]$ and/or a signal transmitter $[(20)]$ for transmitting a signal, particularly an interrogation or activation signal, to the coupled cleaning tool $[(2)]$.
17. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 16~~claim 4, wherein the coding detection device $[(5)]$ includes an optical sensor

[[12; 13; 15]] for detecting an optical coding [[(7)]] of the respective cleaning tool [[(2)]] attached.

18. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 17~~ claim 4, wherein the coding detection device [[(5)]] includes a magnetic sensor [[(6; 9; 10)]] for detecting a magnetic coding [[(7)]] of the respective cleaning tool [[(2)]] attached.
19. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 18~~ claim 4, wherein the coding detection device [[(5)]] includes a sensor [[(9)]], in particular an LC oscillator, for detecting a metallic and/or magnetic coding [[(7)]] of the respective cleaning tool [[(2)]] attached.
20. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 19~~ claim 4, wherein the coding detection device [[(5)]] includes a capacitive sensor [[(21)]] for detecting a capacitive coding [[(7)]] of the respective cleaning tool [[(2)]] attached.
21. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 20~~ claim 4, wherein the coding detection device [[(5)]] includes an electrical or electromagnetic sensor for detecting an electrical or electromagnetic coding of the respective cleaning tool [[(2)]] attached.
22. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 4, wherein provision is made for an activation switch for activating the coding detection device, said activation switch being formed preferably by a switch for starting the handle section.
23. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in claim 22, characterized in that on turning on the activation switch first the coding detection device and then, upon detection of the cleaning tool [[(2)]], the handle section is started.

24. (Currently amended): The handle section as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 23~~ claim 4, wherein the coding detection device $[(5)]$ is arranged in a closed, in particular fluid-tight handle housing $[(26)]$.
25. (Currently amended): A cleaning tool, ~~in particular a brush attachment~~, with a clean tool coupling section to effect coupling to a handle section ~~(1) preferably according to any one of the preceding claims 4 to 24~~ claim 4, characterized by a ~~magnetic, electrical, capacitive, electromagnetic and/or mechanical~~ coding device $[(7)]$.
26. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in claim 25 wherein the coding device includes a signal receiver $[(19; 14)]$ for receiving a signal from the handle section $[(1)]$ and a signal transmitter $[(19; 14)]$ for transmitting a coded signal to the handle section $[(1)]$, ~~in particular~~ a smart transponder chip $[(19)]$.
27. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in claim 25, ~~or 26~~ wherein coding elements are provided between the signal receiver $[(44)]$ and the signal transmitter $[(44)]$ for coding the received signal.
28. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 27~~ claim 25, wherein the coding device possesses a coding body, particularly a shaped body, which is fixedly connected to the body of the cleaning tool and preferably arranged and configured so as to be positioned in the range of detection of a coding detection device $[(5)]$ of the handle section $[(1)]$ when the cleaning tool $[(2)]$ and the handle section $[(1)]$ are in coupled condition.
29. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 28~~ claim 25, wherein provision is made for at least one actuating section as mechanical coding device, which on coupling of the cleaning tool $[(2)]$ to the handle section ~~(1)~~ actuates a probe element or a sensing element ~~(17; 57) on the handle section (1)~~, particularly by moving and/or deforming it by a predetermined degree and/or in a predetermined direction and/or exerting a predetermined force thereon.

30. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in claim ~~[[29]]~~25 wherein as actuating section an actuating surface ~~[[55]]~~ is provided, in particular a pressure application surface, which registers with a corresponding engagement surface ~~[[56]]~~ associated with the probe element or sensing element ~~[[17, 57]]~~ of the handle section ~~[[1]]~~ in such manner that on coupling of the cleaning tool ~~[[2]]~~ to the handle section ~~[[1]]~~ the engagement surface ~~[[56]]~~ on the handle section is moved by a predetermined amount and/or in a predetermined direction and/or is acted upon by a predetermined force.
31. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 30~~claim 40, wherein the mechanical coding device is configured in such manner as to cooperate with a drive shaft ~~[[28]]~~ of the handle section ~~[[1]]~~, being ~~preferably~~ a section of a drive shaft of the cleaning tool.
32. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 31~~claim 40, wherein the mechanical coding device includes at least one magnetic coding body ~~[[8]]~~ which is arranged ~~preferably~~ in the area of a coupling end of the cleaning tool.
33. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 32~~claim 25, wherein the coding device includes at least one dielectric coding body ~~[[8]]~~ which is arranged preferably in the area of a coupling end of the cleaning tool, being constructed to protrude beyond the end in particular in the direction of the coupling motion.
34. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 33~~claim 25, wherein the coding device includes an optical waveguide ~~[[37]]~~ communicating with a light entrance opening ~~[[38]]~~ and a light exit opening ~~[[39]]~~ provided ~~preferably~~ in the coupling end of the body of the cleaning tool.

35. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 34~~ claim 25, wherein the coding device ~~[[(7)]]~~ is an integral part of the body of the cleaning tool.
36. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 34~~ claim 25, wherein the coding device ~~[[(7)]]~~ is connected to the body of the cleaning tool ~~preferably~~ releasably.
37. (Currently amended): The cleaning tool as claimed in ~~any one of the preceding claims 25 to 36~~ claim 25, wherein the coding device is integrated in a ring ~~[[(8)]]~~ arranged at a coupling end of the cleaning tool, being ~~preferably~~ snap-fittable to the body of the cleaning tool by positive engagement therewith.
38. (Currently amended): An electric dental cleaning device, in ~~particular~~ ~~toothbrush~~, comprising a handle section ~~[[(1)]]~~ ~~in particular~~ with a cleaning tool ~~[[(2)]]~~ adapted to be coupled thereto, ~~each~~ according to ~~any one of the preceding claims 4 to 37~~ claim 4.
39. (New): The cleaning tool of claim 25 wherein the cleaning tool coupling section is an electromagnetic coding device.
40. (New): The cleaning tool of claim 25 wherein the cleaning tool coupling section is a mechanical coding device.
41. (New): The tool of claim 26, wherein said signal receiver is a smart transponder chip.